c 1

40. (New) A method for preventing onset of a pre-clinically evident stage of a cardiovascular disorder in a subject at risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder which comprises treating the subject with a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in combination with a lipid lowering drug.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein said lipid lowering drug is selected from the group consisting of (1) an IBAT inhibitor, (2) a fibrate, (3) niacin, (4) a statin, (5) a CETP inhibitor and (6) a bile acid sequestrant.

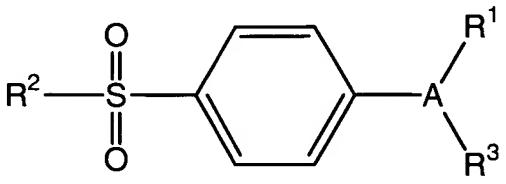
42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein said lipid lowering drug is a statin.

43. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is an inflammation-related cardiovascular disorder.

44. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is selected from coronary artery disease, aneurysm, arteriosclerosis, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, embolism, stroke, thrombosis, angina, coronary plaque inflammation, bacterial induced inflammation, viral induced inflammation and inflammation associated with surgical procedures.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is atherosclerosis.

46. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor has the formula



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where A is selected from oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furyl, thienyl, dihydrofuryl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzofuryl,cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl and pyridyl;

R^1 is selected from pyridyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more methyl radicals and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, rthoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, N-methylamino, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, phenylamino, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy and methylthio;

R^2 is selected from methyl and amino

R^3 is selected from hydrido, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, carboxypropyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, cyanomethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptsfluoropropyl, diflurorethyl, diflurorpropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy, cyclohexyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, hydroxmethyl, hydroxypropyl, benzyl, formyl, phenylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, furylmethoxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, N-methylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, aminomethyl, N,N-dimethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-ethylaminomethyl, benzyloxy and phenyloxy.

47. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is selected from MK-966 (Merck & Co.); L-752,860 (Merck & Co.); L-783003 (Merck & Co.); T-614 (Toyama); D-1367 (Chiroscience); L-748,731 (Merck & Co.); L-745,337 (Merck & Co.); 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(difluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 3-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 2-methyl-5-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 4-[2-(5-

Cont cl methylpyridin-3-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-hydroxymethyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; [2-trifluoromethyl-5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[2-methyl-4-phenyl-5-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; and 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl-2-trifluoromethyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide.

48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is MK-966 (Merck & Co.).

49. (New) A method for preventing onset of a clinically evident cardiovascular disorder in a subject at risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder which comprises treating the subject with a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in combination with a lipid lowering drug.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein said lipid lowering drug is selected from the group consisting of (1) an IBAT inhibitor, (2) a fibrate, (3) niacin, (4) a statin, (5) a CETP inhibitor and (6) a bile acid sequestrant.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein said lipid lowering drug is a statin.

52. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is an inflammation-related cardiovascular disorder.

53. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is selected from coronary artery disease, aneurysm, arteriosclerosis, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, embolism, stroke, thrombosis, angina, coronary plaque inflammation, bacterial induced inflammation, viral induced inflammation and inflammation associated with surgical procedures.

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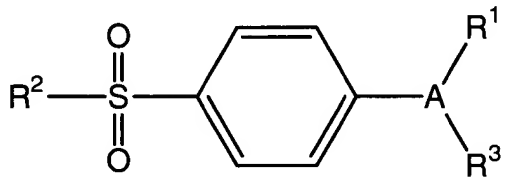
54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is atherosclerosis.

55. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered at a daily dose of 0.1 to 20 mg/kg.

56. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor has the formula



where A is selected from oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furyl, thienyl, dihydrofuryl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzofuryl,cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl and pyridyl;

R^1 is selected from pyridyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more methyl radicals and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, rthoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, N-methylamino, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, phenylamino, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy and methylthio;

R^2 is selected from methyl and amino

R^3 is selected from hydrido, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, carboxypropyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, cyanomethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptsfluoropropyl, difluroreth yl, difluroropropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy, cyclohexyl, phenyl, pyridyl,

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thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, hydroxmethyl, hydroxypropyl, benzyl, formyl, phenylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, furylmethoxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, N-methylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, aminomethyl, N,N-dimethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-ethylaminomethyl, benzyloxy and phenyloxy.

57. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is selected from MK-966 (Merck & Co.); L-752,860 (Merck & Co.); L-783003 (Merck & Co.); T-614 (Toyama); D-1367 (Chiroscience); L-748,731 (Merck & Co.); L-745,337 (Merck & Co.); 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(difluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 3-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 2-methyl-5-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 4-[2-(5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-hydroxymethyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; [2-trifluoromethyl-5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[2-methyl-4-phenyl-5-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; and 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl-2-trifluoromethyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide.

58. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is MK-966 (Merck & Co.).

59. (New) A method for treating a subject at risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in combination with a lipid lowering drug.

60. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said lipid lowering drug is selected from the group consisting of (1) an IBAT inhibitor, (2) a fibrate, (3) niacin, (4) a statin, (5) a CETP inhibitor and (6) a bile acid sequestrant.

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61. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein said lipid lowering drug is a statin.

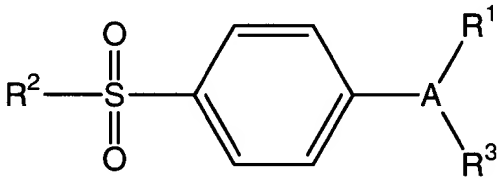
62. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is an inflammation-related cardiovascular disorder.

63. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is selected from coronary artery disease, aneurysm, arteriosclerosis, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, embolism, stroke, thrombosis, angina, coronary plaque inflammation, bacterial induced inflammation, viral induced inflammation and inflammation associated with surgical procedures.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the cardiovascular disorder is atherosclerosis.

65. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered at a daily dose of 0.1 to 20 mg/kg.

66. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor has the formula



where A is selected from oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furyl, thienyl, dihydrofuryl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzofuryl,cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, phenyl and pyridyl;

R^1 is selected from pyridyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more methyl radicals and phenyl optionally substituted at a substitutable position

cont c2 with one or more radicals selected from methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, rthoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, N-methylamino, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, phenylamino, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy and methylthio;

R^2 is selected from methyl and amino

R^3 is selected from hydrido, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, carboxypropyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl, cyanomethyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, hexyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptsfluoropropyl, difluorethyl, diflurorpropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, n-butoxy, pentoxy, cyclohexyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, furyl, pyrazinyl, hydroxmethyl, hydroxypropyl, benzyl, formyl, phenylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, furylmethoxymethyl, aminocarbonyl, N-methylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dimethylamino, N-ethylamino, N,N-dipropylamino, N-butylamino, N-methyl-N-ethylamino, aminomethyl, N,N-dimethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-ethylaminomethyl, benzyloxy and phenyloxy.

67. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is selected from MK-966 (Merck & Co.); L-752,860 (Merck & Co.); L-783003 (Merck & Co.); T-614 (Toyama); D-1367 (Chiroscience); L-748,731 (Merck & Co.); L-745,337 (Merck & Co.); 4-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(difluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 3-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 2-methyl-5-[1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl]pyridine; 4-[2-(5-methylpyridin-3-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[5-hydroxymethyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl]benzenesulfonamide; [2-trifluoromethyl-5-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; 4-[2-methyl-4-phenyl-5-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide; and 4-[5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl-2-trifluoromethyl)-4-oxazolyl]benzenesulfonamide.